DPI PROGRAMME Update

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15 November 1994

UN DAY CELEBRATIONS

"Knowledge about the United Nations is ever more important for people everywhere", Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said in his message for UN Day, 24 October 1994. "With the active commitment of people, the United Nations can continue to play its indispensable role for peace and security, social and economic progress, and global human development. Let's take up the challenge of the next fifty years," he said.

UN Day celebrations in Panama included a wreath-laying ceremony, organized by UNIC staff and representatives of UN agencies in Panama.

With that in mind, United Nations Information Centres, Services, and Offices (UNICs/UNISs/UNOs) set out to publicize the observance of the Day throughout the world. This year, they had received the text and video of the Secretary-General's UN Day message well before the observance and early enough for translation and dissemination to key media. UNICs were able to include the message in their local newsletters and bulletins and provide the information to their local partners.

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FINANCIAL CRISIS IS UNDERMINING UN, SAYS SECRETARY-GENERAL

By the end of August 1994, the United Nations had debts exceeding 1.7 billion, including $1 billion owed to some 70 member States for their troop and equipment contributions to peace-keeping missions. Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali conveyed this message to the General Assembly as it concluded the general debate on 12 October. As of 15 November 1994, the UN was owed a total of 2.1 billion by Member States. Of this amount, $559 million is for the regular budget and 1.6 billion is for peace-keeping operations. Late payment was one of the causes of the Organization's precarious financial situation, the Secretary-General said.

Another cause lay in the slow process of approving peace-keeping budgets and appropriations, the Secretary-General said. Months go by between the date the Security Council approves a peace-keeping mission and the date when cash to pay for it is first received. Because of the late and delayed payments, the Organization has had to delay its own payments to Member States. In effect, the troop-contributing Member States who wait for payment from the United Nations are financing the late payment by other Member States.

By the end of August, only 56 Member States had paid their regular budget assessments in full. By the end of September, there were still 62 Member States that had made no payment.

The United States has recently paid $1.1 billion in assessed contributions for the United Nations regular and peace-keeping budgets. The total amount paid this year by the United States is $1.4 billion.

(Press release GA/AB/2950, 13 October1994).

WORK OF DPI PRAISED IN FOURTH COMMITTEE

Many speakers in the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (the General Assembly's Fourth Committee) commended the initiatives taken by DPI under its new leadership during their four-day debate of Questions Relating to Information. Delegations spoke about the innovative approach and dynamic and pragmatically oriented implementation of information strategies. They supported DPI's efforts to keep up with communication technologies and make products available electronically. They also called for the periodic review of the priorities of DPI and the redeployment of resources. When the United Nations took up a new challenge, DPI should be involved from the beginning and be given a high degree of flexibility, they said.

Delegates also applauded the work of UNICs and UNISs in enhancing the image of the United Nations, especially in the developing countries.

Public Information and Peace-keeping Operations

Many delegations called for a larger public information role in UN peace-keeping operations. DPI should be involved at the earliest stages of the planning process of new peace-keeping missions. Emphasis should be put on promoting an accurate understanding of UN peace-keeping in troop-contributing countries.

The discussion of Questions Relation to Information took place from 26 to 31 October at Headquarters. The Committee adopted draft resolutions A and B, entitled *Information in Service of Humanity* and *United Nations Public Information Policies and Activities*. It also adopted the draft decision contained in document A/49/21, entitled *Increase in the Membership of the Committee on Information*, (from 83 to 88 members) deciding to appoint Belize, Croatia, the Czeck Republic, Kazakhstan and South Africa as members of the Committee.

SECRETARY-GENERAL AWARDED HIGHEST FRENCH HONOUR

During his recent visit to Paris on 26 October, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali received *La Grand Croix de la Légion d'Honneur*, France's highest award, from the President of France, François Mitterand. The President said he was bestowing the honour on the Secretary-General in recognition of his achievements in the fields of peace, development and international diplomacy.

The ceremony, held at the Elysée Palace, was attended by Prime Minister Edouard Balladur, Defence Minister François Léotard and other senior officials including the President of the European Union Commission, Jacques Delors, and Federico Mayor, the Director-General of UNESCO.

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali receives La Grand Croix de la Légion d'Honneur from President François Mitterand.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF SOLIDARITY WITH THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE

The Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People will hold its annual solemn meeting in the General Assembly Hall on 29 November to observe the Day. Commemorative meetings are also being held at the UN Offices in Geneva and Vienna and at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris. Speakers in New York include the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council. A message from the Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) will be read out at the meeting. NGOs are invited to attend, and a representative of the international NGO community will address the meeting.

A special bulletin containing the texts of the statements and messages received on the Solidarity Day is published annually by the Division for Palestinian Rights. An exhibition on various aspects of the question of Palestine and screening of films will be undertaken during the week of 29 November. These activities are sponsored by the Committee and presented by the Permanent Observer Mission of Palestine.

AVAILABLE MATERIALS

Reports by the Secretary-General

Palestine Refugees in the Palestinian Territory occupied by Israel since 1967 (A/49/440, 28 September 1994).

Return of population and refugees displaced since 1967, (A/49/441, 28 September 1994).

Protection of Palestine Refugees, (A/49/442, 28 September 1994).

Publications and Video

Prerequisites for Peace in the Middle East, an International Encounter for Journalists on the Question of Palestine, Elsinore, Denmark, 15-17 June 1994 (DPI/1561).

Palestine 1980s - 1990s, (34 - minute video).

For further information, please contact:
Mustapha Tlili, Chief, Anti-apartheid,
Palestine and Decolonization Section, DPI
Tel: (212) 963-6848 Fax:(212) 963-4556

AIDS AND THE FAMILY

To mark World AIDS Day, 1 December, a panel discussion will be held in the ECOSOC Chamber on the theme, AIDS and the Family. A video with the Secretary-General's statement to the AIDS Summit, taking place in Paris on 1 December, will be screened at the event. Jointly organized by the NGO Section/DPI, the Planning and Special Programmes Section/DPI and WHO, the panel discussion will include:

The Surgeon-General of the United States, Joycelyn Elders, M.D.

Rev. Phillipa Turner, Chaplain,
New York Hospital/Cornell Medical Centre,
Children with AIDS Programme.

Dr. Sandra Anderson,
WHO, Global Programme on AIDS.

Joey Dipaolo, HIV positive, Staten Island, born 1979. Carol Dipaolo, his mother.

DOCUMENTS

Progress in establishing a joint and co-sponsored United Nations programme on HIV/AIDS (E/1994/71, 15 June).

WHO is sending out a press kit, containing a press release on International AIDS Day and a newsletter. A poster is available in English and French.

For further information, please contact:

The World Health Organization (WHO)
Global Programme on AIDS 1211
Geneva 27, Switzerland
Tel: (41-22) 791 21 11
Fax: (41-22) 791 07 46

READEX
FICHE

HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION

A panel discussion to launch the *Decade on Human Rights Education* (1 January 1995 - 31 December 2004) has been scheduled for 9 December in the ECOSOC Chamber. The event is co-sponsored by DPI and the Centre for Human Rights in observance of Human Rights Day, 10 December.

The panel will include High Commissioner for Human Rights José Ayala Lasso; Chairperson for the Committee against Discrimination of Women, Ivanca Corti; Professor Upandra Baxi, Visiting Professor at the American University, Washington College of Law, ex-Vice Chancellor of the University of Delhi and Shula Koenig, Executive Director of the People's Decade for Human Rights Education. Charlayene Hunter-Gault, Public Broadcasting Service, N.Y., will be the Moderator of the panel discussion.

Another decade concerning human rights will begin this year: the *International Decade of the World's Indigenous People* (RES/48/163) starting on 10 December 1994. The General Assembly will hold a plenary meeting on 8 December to mark the opening of the *Decade of the World's Indigenous People*.

The 1993-2003 Third Decade to Combat Racial Discrimination (RES/48/91) is currently underway.

HUMAN RIGHTS FAX HOT LINE

The High Commissioner for Human Rights, José Ayala Lasso, has established a Human Rights Fax Hot Line in Geneva, a 24-hour fax line for victims of human rights violations, their relatives and NGOs. This will allow the UN Centre for Human Rights in Geneva to monitor and react as quickly as possible to human rights emergencies, such as the crisis in Rwanda.

The Centre for Human Rights will also create a Human Rights Database to gather information for use by special rapporteurs who are responsible for investigating questions such as religious intolerance, torture, racism and freedom of expression. The Database will be available by modem to human rights rapporteurs and experts worldwide.

The Fax Hot Line and Database are part of United Nations efforts to enhance global flow of information in five priority areas of the UN human rights programme:

Human rights emergency situations.

Situations which may require preventive action by the High Commissioner.

Investigative missions by special rapporteurs or working groups.

Follow-up action by the High Commissioner to recommendations by special rapporteurs and working groups.

Implementation efforts by treaty-based human rights bodies and advisory services and technical assistance to UN Member States.

(Background note, DPI/1550, September 1994).

The Fax Hot Line number is (41-22) 917-0092

AVAILABLE MATERIALS

Publications

International Bill of Human Rights, booklet, is available in all six official languages (DPI/925, rev.1).

Notes for Speakers 1993: Human Rights, booklet (DPI/1302 rev.1, E,F,S).

Declaration on the Right to Development (DPI/918, A, C, E, F, R, S).

Universal Declaration of Human Rights (DPI/15, DPI/876, A, C, E, F, R, S).

Indigenous Decade, feature (DPI/1608, 8 December 1994).

Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action (DPI/1394).

Video

Palestine 1890s to 1990s (34 minutes).

New Horizons for Human Rights (27 minutes).

Five UN in Action videos in five official languages: *The Right of Asylum, Indigenous Guatemalans, Political Asylum*, and *The New Human Rights High Commissioner.*

Indigenous People - Towards a New Partnership (15 minutes).

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TRANSNATIONALS AND THE WORKPLACE

UNICs promote UNCTAD's World Investment Report

Governments must devise new ways of responding to the growing power of transnational corporations which have a great influence on the workplace, says the new *World Investment Report* published by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). Entitled, *Transnational Corporations, Employment and the Workplace*, the report says multinationals employ about 73 million people, 20 percent of which are in the industrialized countries.

For poorer countries, multinationals can be a force for the establishment of higher standards of labour, says the report. When compared with prevailing domestic levels, the workforce employed by transnational affiliates in these countries most often enjoys better conditions of work, higher wages and social security benefits. The report suggests that governments re-shape their agenda to meet the requirements of business and industrial investment and indicates support for a system of international rules governing the activities of multinationals.

UNICs in all regions helped disseminate the UNCTAD message by providing media support for the global launch of the fourth annual report. A network of regional resource persons, identified by UNCTAD's Office of Transnational Affairs, was available for the many local seminars, colloquia, press conferences and one-to-one media appearances, arranged by UNICs around the world.

Professor Vassilis Droukopoulos of the University of Athens and Director of Greece's Centre for Economic Planning and Research, analyzed the report at a press conference organized by **UNIC** at the **Athens** Foreign Press Association. Journalists from large-circulation dailies and weeklies as well as representatives of international and diplomatic publications attended the launch.

Twelve journalists and four university students participated in the special press briefing on the report given at **UNIC Brussels** by two of UNCTAD's regional experts.

UNIC Bucharest distributed a press release in Romanian nationwide on the findings of the report. As a result, ten articles appeared in the Romanian press focusing largely on the concerns of Eastern Europe, in particular, on foreign direct investment. Articles pointed out that transnational are at present the main source of financing world economic development for Eastern Europe.

At a workshop organized by **UNIC Dhaka**, Professor Forrest E. Cookson, President of American-Bangladesh Economic Forum, pointed to some of the basic problems which act as repellents rather than attractions for foreign investment. The Financial Express suggested that the country's problems were not impossible to overcome. Other stories appearing in the national press including The New Nation, The Morning Sun and The Daily Star, drew attention to the growing influence of transnational on the workplace.

Kenneth Dadzie and Professor John Cantwell were presiding experts at a press conference organized by **UNIC London** to introduce the report. Twelve representatives of the major financial press of the United Kingdom, including- *the Guardian, The British Broadcasting Corporation, The UK Business Journal and The Financial Times*, and *Euromoney Publications*, attended and carried major pieces on the report. A representative of the British Overseas Development Institute also participated.

Senior economists, government representatives, United Nations officials and media representatives attended the presentation on the report organized by **UNIC Madrid**. Noted economist Julio Segura, President of the Fundacíon Empresa Publica, who was one of the presiding experts, was quoted widely in the Spanish press coverage of the launch.

UNIC Mexico reports "abundant and favourable press coverage" generated by the 49 reporters who attended UNIC's press conference. Commentators were the Directors-General of the Foreign Investment Department of the Ministry of Commerce and Industrial Development and of the Employment Division of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare.

UNIC Rio de Janeiro helped disseminate the UNCTAD report through its telexed news service, daily facsimile news service and monthly bulletin, *ONU em foco*.

Representatives of the leading national Japanese dailies were in attendance at a press conference to launch the report at the United Nations University. Soitsu Watanabe of the Institute for Overseas Investment, presented highlights of the report. **UNIC Tokyo** reports that articles have appeared in all Japanese dailies as well as four English-language newspapers. UNIC has also fielded a large number of inquiries about the report.

Commenting on the extent to which Transnational had enhanced their role in the world economy, UNCTAD economist Persephone Economou mentioned the rise in sales and employment levels, and said the stock of foreign direct investment had increased by 11 per cent in the second half of the 1980s. **UNIC Washington** organized the launch of the report at the National Press Club in Washington, and provided logistical support for the event in which John Kline, senior fellow at the Institute for International Economics and Monty Graham professor of economics at Georgetown University also responded to journalists' questions.

UNIC NEWS BRIEFS

BANGKOK

United Nations Asia-Pacific News is the new quarterly newsletter issued jointly by United Nations agencies and UNIS Bangkok in the Asian and Pacific region. The first issue contains articles about the fiftieth annual session of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), regional action to improve conditions for children and the role of UNCHR in Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar. The newsletter may be obtained by contacting:

UNIS Bangkok, ESCAP Headquarters,
United Nations Building,
Tel: (212) 66-2288-1861,
Fax: (212) 66-2281 1743.

BUENOS AIRES

A newsletter in Spanish entitled, *The steps to Beijing*, was produced by UNIC Buenos Aires in collaboration with UNIFEM, UNDP and UNICEF to promote the issues of the Fourth World Conference on Women at the Regional Preparatory Conference for the Conference (Mar del Plata in September). It was distributed to participants and journalists at the Preparatory meeting together with the press kit on the Fourth World Conference on Women, prepared by the Secretariat in New York. The newsletter was financed by local enterprises.

UNIC invited journalists from the major newspapers in Argentina to cover the meeting. It organized interviews for journalists, distributed press releases to other UNICs in the region and acted as interpreter in interviews with Gertrude Mongella, Secretary-General of the Beijing Conference.

COPENHAGEN

The International Parliamentarian Union (IPU) held its ninety-second Inter-Parliamentary Conference in Copenhagen from 12 to 17 September. Under-Secretary-General Joseph Verner Reed spoke on behalf of the Secretary-General, saying the agenda for the Conference was especially interesting for the United Nations because it contained the question of economic and social development. He said that subject coincided with the preparations currently underway for the World Summit for Social Development, to be held in Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995. The Summit needed the informed and committed contribution of Parliamentarians. Clear and specific commitments would have to be made by Heads of State and Government at the Summit. The political will to make those commitments must come from the Parliamentarians of the World, he said.

Among other speakers were the Prime Minister of Denmark, the President of the Danish Parliament, the Lord Mayor of Copenhagen and the President of IPU. Present at the opening were the Queen of Denmark, Margrethe II and Prince Henrik.

During the Conference, UNIC Copenhagen set up a display stand and handed out information materials about the Social Summit and DPI in general. UNIC reports that many IPU delegates showed interest in the stand.

GEORGIA

UNO Tblisi in Georgia provided information to the media on the International Day for the Elderly, 1 October. As a result, Georgian radio and TV broadcast programmes on the present situation for the elderly in Georgia.

UNO publicized the International Day for Peace, 20 September, which coincided with the opening of the forty-ninth regular session of the General Assembly. The mayor of Tbilisi, Niko Lekishvili, called for a minute of silence to observe the Day.

NEW DELHI

UNIC New Delhi has translated the DPI factsheet on the World Summit for Social Development into Hindi and has distributed it to the media, NGOs and Government institutions. In addition, the Centre encouraged private sponsors to support a festival of Indian classical dances to celebrate the 1994 International Year of the Family. The festival took place from 27-29 September in New Delhi.

OUAGADOUGOU

UNIC Ouagadougou reports a visit to Burkina Faso of UNESCO Director-General Federico Mayor. The Centre provided media liaison support resulting in extensive coverage of the visit by the press, radio and TV. An in-depth hour-long interview with Mr. Mayor was produced by the National TV. UNESCO films and videos were broadcast in the Centre's 30-minute TV programme, *Canal-ONU*.

WASHINGTON

Director of UNIC Washington, Michael Stopford, reports that Bill Clinton, the President of the United States, has agreed to serve as Honourary Chairman of the UNA/USA UN50 Committee, joining the other four living Presidents of the United States.

He was informed of the President's decision by Thomas Morgan, the new President of UNA/USA, at an exhibit on *Older Persons: East and West* displaying photographs by the Russian Photographer, Vladimir Rolov. The exhibit marked the International Day for the Elderly (1 October) at the Washington D.C. headquarters of the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP).

UN INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON TRADE EFFICIENCY

A Declaration calling for measures to increase international trade efficiency, to reduce transaction costs and other trade barriers and to allow poorer countries to participate in the rapidly expanding trade and communications network was adopted unanimously by the UN International Symposium on Trade Efficiency, held in Colombus, Ohio, 17-21 October.

In his opening address, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said that "a world brought together by ties of trade will be inclined to peace rather than war, to cooperation rather than confrontation". The Colombus meeting marked the beginning of a new partnership between the United Nations, national government, local government and the private sector.

Organized by the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the Symposium was the first-ever high-level UN conference hosted by the United States. About 700 delegates from 138 countries participated, including two Prime Ministers and 67 Trade Ministers. **(Press release TAD/1769, 24 October).**

AFRICAN DELEGATES BRIEFED ABOUT URUGUAY ROUND

If the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) was to be ratified in its present form, certain issues would pose a problem to Africa. That is what African delegates were told at a briefing at Headquarters on 17 October on the preliminary evaluation of the potentially negative impact of the Uruguay Round of Free Trade Negotiations for African countries.

Khalil Rahman, Trade Policy Adviser at the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and Layashi Yaker, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), who held the briefing, said that African countries would lose preferential access to major markets, and food import would cost more for net food importing countries. Africa would need an international mechanism to compensate it for the expected short-term losses from the GATT agreement, they said.

The final text of the Uruguay Round of Negotiations was adopted on 15 April 1994 as a result of complex multilateral negotiations to guarantee free and fair trade.

The briefing was organized by the Office of the Special Coordinator for Africa and the Least Developed Countries of the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, in cooperation with UNCTAD and ECA.

MEETING IN NAPLES ON ORGANIZED TRANSNATIONAL CRIME

Ministers of Justice and the Interior from all parts of the world will gather in Naples, Italy, from 21 to 23 November to discuss the shaping of a new global strategy for combating transnational crime. Organized by the United Nations and hosted by the Italian Government, the World Ministerial Conference on Organized Transnational Crime will examine transnational crime in all regions of the world and identify means of international cooperation for its prevention and control.

The Naples Conference will discuss some of the issues to be taken up by the **Ninth United Nations Crime Congress**, to be held in Tunis, 3-14 April 1995. Apart from transnational crime, it will focus on environmental crime, corruption and money laundering and juvenile crime and violence.

UNICs will receive a press release on the Naples Conference and backgrounders on different crime issues that can serve as background information for the Congress in Tunis. The materials may be obtained

Nancy Borman, UNIS Vienna
Tel: (431) 211 31 5139 Fax: (431) 237 241

in French, German and Italian by contacting:
UNIC Santa Fe de Bogota reports that it will translate a number of the backgrounders into Spanish. For further information, please contact:

UNIC Santa Fe de Bogota
Carlos del Castillo, Officer-in-Charge,
Calle 100 No. 8A-55, Of.815
Santa Fe de Bogota, 2, Colombia
Tel: (57-1) 257-6044 Fax: (57-1) 257-6244

A video tape produced by the UN Drug Prevention Programme (UNDPC-Vienna) on money laundering will be distributed to UNICs in English. For more information, please contact:

Tim Wall, Information Officer, DPI
Tel: (212) 963-5851 Fax:(212) 963-1186

ZERO EMISSIONS RESEARCH INITIATIVE

The United Nations University (UNU) is preparing a major research initiative called ZERI — the Zero Emissions Research Initiative — whose goal is to promote manufacturing without any form of pollution. UNU says there are numerous opportunities to convert industrial activities to no waste in the air, no waste in the water, no solid waste. All wastes are to be considered input for a next cycle of industry. The concept of ZERO Emissions is not only important for industrialized countries, it is crucial for developing countries which should not make the same mistakes as the industrialized countries. Recently, some 50 Japanese corporations attended the first ZERI briefing at the UNU Headquarters in Tokyo. For more information, please contact:

The United Nations University Office in North America
Tel: (212) 963 6387 Fax: (212) 371 9454

DESERTIFICATION

An International legal agreement to curb the degradation of arid lands world-wide was opened for signature on 14-15 October in Paris. The agreement — the UN Convention on Desertification — was concluded on 18 June, also in Paris, by over 100 Governments. The text of the Convention is available in French, English and Spanish.

Algeria has presented a draft resolution to the General Assembly's Second Committee proposing to proclaim 17 June as World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought, beginning in 1995 (A/C.2/49/L.19, 11 November 1994). For more information please contact:

Julie Thompson or Pragati Pascale, DPI
Tel: (212) 963 4295/6870 Fax: (212) 963 1186

DPI Publications

World Summit for Social Development: Jobless Growth and the Right to Work (DPI/1491, August 1994). A background article on the 1994 Human Development Report in the series produced by DPI on the themes of the Social Summit (Copenhagen, 11-12 March 1995).

A New Age for Old Age (DPI 1515, August 1994). The question of ageing as an important topic at the Social Summit is being discussed in this background article.

Children are our future (DPI/1492 August 1994). The health of children, their education and exploitation through child labour, are among the topics discussed in this background article.

Families: The Heart of Society (DPI/1512 August 1994). Poverty, unemployment and social disintegration - the three main issues of the Social Summit - threaten the family.

Antarctica: United Nations Focus: Environment. Safeguarding Antarctica's key role in a balanced world ecosystem (DPI/1555, August 1994).

Video

UN in Action: *Dar es Salaam tries new approaches to urban renewal (19 September, prog. no. 352, dur: 3'41", E, A, S, F, R).*

The growing rate of Tanzania's population, an increase of 10 per cent a year, is resulting in the virtual collapse of essential services. Many areas lack proper roads, drainage channels and appropriate sewer systems. The water run-off from the sewage mixes with rainwater and poses a health hazard for the citizens. The UNDP is providing funds to assist residents to rebuild the infrastructure.

UN in Action: *War reduces Armenia and Azerbaijan to poverty (12 September, prog. no.351, dur: 3'41", E, A, S, F, R).* The war between Armenia and Azerbaijan has caused turmoil in these countries. More than 835,000 people in Armenia have either become displaced persons or refugees. People in both countries rely mostly on donations of food, medicine and other supplies from international aid agencies. In Azerbaijan, local industries have remained idle during the conflict. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is assisting local factories with funds to resume production and further offset the cost of importing life's necessities.

UN in Action: *International peace-keepers help maintain precarious peace in Liberia (6 September, prog.no. 350, dur:4'52", E, A, S, F, R).* After four years of brutal civil war, Liberians yearn for peace. For the first time, UN Military Workers in Liberia (UNOMIL) are working with ECOMOG, a regionally organized peace-keeping force, to maintain peace and stability in Liberia. The slow process of disarming the factions imperils plans for free elections under the Cotonou Peace Agreement.

UN in Action: *creative garbage disposal in the Maldives (28 August, prog. no.349, dur:3'15", E, A, S, F, R).* The Maldive Islands share similar problems with many other small island States around the world. The islands stand a mere two metres above sea level and could disappear as sea levels rise. As the rate of population increases, limited space for housing and designated areas for garbage disposal become a problem. Many tourists visiting the island paradise are encouraged to store their garbage in special bags supplies by the airline industry for recycling in their own country.

UN in Action: *Prospects improve for Georgia's displaced people (28 August, prog.no 348, dur:3'08", E, A, F, S, R). Hundreds of thousands of displaced men, women and children remain in human misery after two years of ethnic conflict in Georgia. Russian Federation peace-keeping troops monitor checkpoints to control the flow of weapons and drugs in the region. International agencies, especially the UNHCR, have appealed for $14 million to help resettle displaced people and begin the rebuilding of the economy. For more information on video, please contact:*

Barbara Sue-Ting-Len, Chief
Audio/Visual Promotion and Distribution Unit, DPI
Tel: (212) 963 6982 Fax: (212) 963 6869

UN DAY CELEBRATIONS

Continued from page 1

Heads of State and Government and other dignitaries and prominent persons participated in events surrounding the observance of UN Day. Among them:

The President of Chile
The Prime Minister of Belarus
Emir of Riyadh, Prince Salman Bin Abdulaziz
Vice-President of Colombia
The President of France
Senior Adviser to King Hassan II of Morocco
Prime Minister of Pakistan
The President of Panama
The First Lady of Panama
The President of the Philippines
The President of Romania
The Prime Minister of Thailand

During the first week after UN Day and through 10 November, activity feedback was received from *Accra, Addis Ababa, Algiers, Amman, Ankara, Asmara, Asuncion, Athens, Baku, Bangkok, Beirut, Brazzaville, Brussels, Bucharest, Buenos Aires, Bujumbura, Cairo, Dakar, Dhaka, Geneva, UNDP Guinea-Bissau, Harare, Islamabad, Jakarta, UNHCR Johannesburg, Khartoum, Kiev, Lagos, La Paz, Lima, Lisbon, Lomé, London, Madrid, Manama, Manila, Mexico City, Minsk, Moscow, Nairobi, New Delhi, Ouagadougou, Paris, Panama, UNDP Poland, Port of Spain, Prague, Rabat, Rio de Janeiro, Riyadh, Rome, Sana'a, Santa Fe de Bogota, Santiago, Sydney, Tehran, Tbilisi, Tokyo, Tripoli, Tunis, Yangon, Yaounde, Yerevan, Washington, Windhoek and UNDP Damascus* (66).

The Secretary-General's message was broadcast on TV in 38 countries and on radio in 24 countries. It appeared in English and in translation in many newspapers world-wide and was read out at public ceremonies. The message was translated into:

Afrikaans and Oshiwambo, (Namibia), Amharic (Ethiopia), Azeri, Bahasa Indonesia, Congolese, Farsi (Iran), Georgian, Japanese, Kirundi and Swahili (Burundi), Myanmar language, Portuguese, Russian, Shona and Ndebele (Zimbabwe), Spanish, Thai, Tigrigna (Eritrea), Turkish and Ukrainian.

UNIC CELEBRATIONS

Press meetings, concerts, sports events and flag-raising and wreath-laying ceremonies were among the activities carried out by UNICs to celebrate UN Day this year. Some events were organized under government auspices or in partnership with UN partners, UNAs and NGOs. Meetings were attended by government officials, the diplomatic corps, the media, NGOs, UN agencies and members of the academic community.

Commemorative events

In *Yangon*, Myanmar, UN Day was commemorated under the aegis of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The ceremony was held in the Parliament and attended by Ministers, senior officials from UN agencies, members of the diplomatic corps and NGOs. Among speakers at the event were the Foreign Minister U Ohn Gyaw; Klaus Wagner, WHO representative, and the UN Resident Coordinator.

More countries observe UN Day

A commemorative meeting co-organized by **UNIC Sana'a** and the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Planning and Development, Abdul Kader Bajammal, was the first UN Day celebration in Yemen. Government officials, representatives of UN agencies in Yemen and the media participated in the meeting.

In **South Africa** UN Day was observed for the first time by the six UN Agencies represented there. They held a joint press briefing in the presence of the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, who read President Nelson Mandela's UN Day message. A special message from the Secretary-General to the South African people was read out by Nicolas Bwakira, the representative of UNHCR.

Official statements

UNIC Brazzaville organized a meeting under the chairmanship of the Ministre des Affaires Etrangéres et de la Coopération, Chargé de la Francophonie, Benjamin Bounkoulou, who issued a statement.

The Prime Minister of **Pakistan**, Benazir Bhutto, issued a message on the United Nations Day. The UN system in Pakistan co-hosted with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs the UN Day reception at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for some 700 guests.

Press events

UNIC Dakar held a panel discussion on various UN issues in cooperation with the Senegalese National Press Club and the UNDP Office in Dakar. Among guest speakers were the representatives of UN agencies present in Dakar. More than 30 international and local journalists attended the event.

In Zimbabwe, an interagency committee was formed under the leadership of **UNIC Harare** to prepare for a month-long multi-media campaign to publicize UN Day. The campaign included press briefings, media field trips to UN development projects, panel discussions and a public lecture by UNIC Director Ceciwa Khonje. UN feature articles and audio and video materials were placed in the electronic media during October.

Events with UNAs

Assisted by **UNIS Bangkok**, UNA/Thailand organized a ceremony chaired by the Foreign Minister of Thailand. UNIS Director Khaled Khali and Information Assistant Kittisak Verdhanabhuti received plaques in appreciation of UNIS's support to UNA/Thailand activities.

UNIC Rome and UNA/Italy held a UN Day celebration with the participation of Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Livio Caputo.

UNIC Tokyo reports that the annual convention of UNA/Japan had as its theme the commemoration of UN Day. A UN Day Lecture entitled, Thinking about the present UN and Japan, was given by professor Takahiro Shin-yo and the former Director of the UN Policy Division of the Foreign Ministry at the National University of Osaka.

UNIC Washington collaborated with UNA/USA in organizing a community celebration at the American University.

Flag-raising Ceremonies

The UN flag flew over Acropolis, Athens, on UN Day, reports **UNIC Athens**. After the flag hoisting ceremony, Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs and the Head of the District of Attica laid a wreath on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, while the UN Hymn and the Greek national anthem were played.

UNIC Ouagadougou held a flag-raising ceremony at which the UNDP Resident Coordinator, the UNIC Director and the Minister for External Relations of Burkina Faso spoke.

From right to left: Ernest Nzekio, UNDP Resident Coordinator; Ablassé Ouedraogo, Minister of External Relations; Toussaint Kongo-Doudou, Director of UNIC Ouagadougou.

Launching of UN50 and UN Parks

UNIC Manila reports that the Government of the Philippines held a reception and a solemn ceremony at the Presidential Palace in Manila. Philippine President Fidel Ramos spoke at the event and officially launched the commemoration of UN50 in the Philippines. The commemoration will culminate with the creation of a UN theme Park in Manila.

The Municipality of Windhoek organized a ceremony to name a park United Nations Plaza in honour of the United Nations. The Namibian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Theo-Ben Gurirab, the Mayor of Windhoek and the Director of **UNIC Windhoek**, Finjap Njinga, spoke at the ceremony. The park will be inaugurated on 24 October 1995.

UN DAY CELEBRATIONS

The exhibit, India and the United Nations, was mounted by UNIC New Delhi on UN Day to mark the Government of India's launch of UN50.

Wreath-layings

In **London** on official visit on UN Day, the Secretary-General participated in an official wreath-laying ceremony at the Cenotaph, Whitehall.

In Argentina, **UNIC Buenos Aires** and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs co-organized a wreath-laying ceremony at which the Minister for Foreign Affairs made a statement. A group of former UN peace-keeping soldiers and 50 military students from the Gendarmeria Nacional also participated.

All the Agencies of the UN system represented in Panama participated in a wreath-laying ceremony in front of the monument to Manuel Amador Guerro, the first Panamanian President, Manuel Amador, reports **UNIC Panama**.

Concerts and Sports

UNIC Bucharest reports that the President of Romania, in cooperation with the National Radio in Romania, organized a concert on UN Day with the National Radio Orchestra, conducted by Adrian Sunshine (USA) and the Romanian pianist Dan Grigore. The concert was attended by 1,000 people.

UNO Kiev held a press conference attended by the Minister for Youth and Sport. The Centre organized a concert with the Odessa Philharmonic Orchestra, which was opened by the Vice Prime Minister of Ukraine.

UNO Minsk and **UNA Belarus** organized a concert by the Chamber Orchestra of the Special Musical highschool of the Belorussian Academy of Music. The Chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Belarus, Mechislav Grib, and the Prime Minister of Belarus, Mikhail Chigir, made statements before the performance.

HUMAN RIGHTS

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Documents

Reports of the Secretary-General

Status of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (A/49/403, 20 September 1994).

Regional Arrangements for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (A. 49/321, 18 August 1994).

Status of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (A/49/408, 20 September 1994).

Programme of Activities of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People (A/49/446, 28 September 1994).

Effective Promotion of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belongling to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities (A/49/415, 21 September 1994).

Iran (A/49/514), *South Africa* (A/49/543), *Cuba* (A/49/544).

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